

SENATE BILL 1452
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13, Chapter 27, relative to international trade.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13, Chapter 27, is amended by adding sections 2 through 8 as a new part 3.

SECTION 2. This part shall be known and may be cited as the Tennessee International Trade and Export Development Act of 2001.

SECTION 3. "Small and medium-sized businesses or companies" defined - Farms.

As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, "small and medium-sized businesses or companies" means those companies or farms with annual sales not exceeding twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000), seeking to enter foreign markets.

SECTION 4. Advisory council.

(a) There is hereby created the international trade and export development advisory council. The advisory council consists of nine (9) members, as follows:

- (1) One (1) state senator appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (2) One (1) state representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) The remaining seven (7) members shall be appointed by the governor from the private sector and shall include at least one (1) person from each of the following backgrounds:

(A) Private enterprise export trading operation;

(B) International banking and finance;

(C) Freight forwarding and shipping business;

(D) International law or intellectual property;

(E) The chamber of commerce of a city with a population in excess of one hundred thousand (100,000) according to the 1990 federal census or subsequent census;

(F) A representative of a port authority

(b) In addition, the commissioners of agriculture and economic and community development or their designees shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the advisory council.

SECTION 5. The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly and has the following duties and powers:

(1) Serve as an advocate for promoting and obtaining programs and services that will enable small and medium-sized companies and farms to enter and compete in foreign markets and disseminate pertinent information to the business, agricultural, and financial community;

(2) Develop an educational center that offers certification programs in trade issues, internships, training, distance learning, exposure to foreign languages, exposure to financial issues, and a focus on trade and natural resources and agriculture;

(3) Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the international, national, state and local level and attempt to make Tennessee products competitive in

international markets by encouraging efforts in education, finance, insurance, transportation, and promotion;

(4) Assist other statewide agencies or organizations, both public and private, regarding matters affecting international trade in developing a comprehensive strategy for the encouragement of international trade and export development;

(5) Accept reports from any state authorized funding entity on the effectiveness of the state's efforts in this area; and

(6) File annual reports or more often if necessary with the governor and the speakers of the two (2) houses of the general assembly and the appropriate standing committees.

SECTION 6. The director of the export trade office of the department of economic and community development shall serve as executive secretary to the advisory council.

SECTION 7.

(a) The members of the advisory council shall receive no compensation for their services, but the members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(b) The advisory council is administratively attached to the Department of economic and community development, but for all purposes other than administration is considered independent.

(c) The advisory council may:

- (1) Create subcommittees related to its purpose;
- (2) Conduct hearings;
- (3) Employ staff, subject to the availability of funds;

(4) Enter contracts for technical or professional services, subject to the availability of funds; and

(5) Perform such other duties as are required.

SECTION 8. The commissioner of economic and community development is urged to seek additional funding resources and to create additional positions within the export trade office and the division of marketing to implement a sound comprehensive export development strategy, which will include the addition of export trade specialists. Such strategy includes the elements of education, counseling, promotion, and inter-agency cooperative efforts.

SECTION 9. The commissioner of economic and community development is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this act in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION . This act shall take effect on July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.